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Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine
Washington, D. C.

B. E. P. Q.--445
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May 10, 1937.

PLANT-QUARANTINE IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

OF

CENTRAL AMERICA

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The following summary of the plant-quarantine import restrictions of the countries of Central America has been prepared for the information of nurserymen, plant-quarantine officials, and others interested in the exportation of plants and plant products from the United States of North America to those countries.

The summary was compiled by Harry B. Shaw, Plant Quarantine Inspector in Charge, Foreign Information Service, Division of Foreign Plant Quarantines, from the original texts or his translations thereof. The summaries were then reviewed by the appropriate officials of the respective countries.

The information contained in this circular is believed to be correct and complete up to the time of preparation, but it is not intended to be used independently of, nor as a substitute for, the original texts, and it is not to be interpreted as legally authoritative. The quarantines themselves should be consulted for the exact texts.

LEE A. STRONG,
Chief, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine.

PLANT-QUARANTINE IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

OF

CENTRAL AMERICA

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SUMMARY OF THE PLANT-QUARANTINE IMPORT RESTRICTIONS OF THE COLONY OF BRITISH HONDURAS

BASIC LEGISLATION

(Plant Protection Ordinance of 1924, as amended by that of 1928)

It shall be lawful for the Governor by proclamation:

(a) To prohibit absolutely, or subject to such conditions as he may prescribe, the importation generally, or from any country or place named in such proclamation, of any fruit, seeds, cuttings, plants, or any description of earth, or soil, or any articles packed therewith, or any package, covering, or thing in which they may be packed, or any article or thing which, in his opinion, is likely to be the means of introducing any plant disease into the Colony;

(b) To make any Order he may deem fit respecting the disinfecting, transport, or storing or destruction of any of the articles aforesaid. (Ordinance of Aug. 23, 1928, to amend the Plant Protection Ordinance of 1924.)

IMPORTATION OF BANANA PLANTS PROHIBITED FROM CERTAIN COUNTRIES

The importation is absolutely prohibited into the Colony of British Honduras, directly or indirectly, of the plant known as the banana plant and any other species of the genus Musa from the West Indian Islands, Republics of Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama, the Continent of South America, Canary Islands, and West Africa, together with any articles or soil packed therewith, or any package, covering, or thing in which it may be packed, unless it is imported by the Department of Agriculture for experimental purposes, or under a license issued by the Agricultural Officer. (Proc. No. 18, May, 1934.)

IMPORTATION OF CITRUS PLANTS RESTRICTED

The importation into the Colony, directly or indirectly, of citrus plants, including plants of grapefruit, orange, lemon, lime, and tangerine, is absolutely prohibited save and except under the following conditions:

(a) All orders shall be placed through the Department of Agriculture and the selection of the nursery from which any plants are obtained shall be made by and be in the discretion of the Agricultural Officer.

(b) Trees shall be fumigated on arrival if considered necessary by the Agricultural Officer.

(c) Trees in each consignment shall be planted out in one block and shall be open to inspection at any time by officers of the Department of Agriculture.

(d) Within 3 years after planting any tree as aforesaid, if in the opinion of the Agricultural Officer it is necessary to destroy any tree or to spray the same in any particular manner due to the presence of harmful disease believed to have been introduced on such tree, the owner thereof shall, on being required to do so in writing by the Agricultural Officer, carry out at his own expense any such instructions as aforesaid.

(e) All materials used in the packing of any trees, as well as any container in which the same may have been conveyed, shall be destroyed by fire after the plants have been received on the farm on which they are to be set out. (Proc. No. 6, Feb. 13, 1934.)

IMPORTATION OF FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES FROM THE UNITED STATES UNRESTRICTED

The importation is prohibited into British Honduras from all sources except Canada, the United Kingdom and Ireland, and the United States of America, of fruits (except green bananas, nuts, and dried or processed fruits); and vegetables (except Irish potatoes, onions, canned or processed vegetables, grains, seeds, dried beans, and peas).

Each shipment of fruits and vegetables from Canada and from the United Kingdom and Ireland shall be accompanied by a certificate affirming that the products are of home origin.

Fruits (except bananas and plantains) grown in Jamaica may be imported only when each shipment is accompanied by a certificate of origin and inspection issued by the Agricultural Officer.

Plants packed or growing in soil (except citrus plants) may be imported only when a certificate of introduction is granted by the Agricultural Officer after inspection and, if necessary, fumigation.

All such plants and plant products offered for entry into the Colony which do not comply with the above regulations shall be destroyed by the Government.

This Proclamation shall not apply to materials required by the Agricultural Department. (Proc. No. 19, July 21, 1932.)

LICENSE REQUIRED TO IMPORT TOBACCO SEED

From the fifth day of August, 1933, all importations of tobacco seeds are prohibited except under license issued by the Agricultural Officer which shall prescribe such treatment of the seeds by the Department of Agriculture as the Agricultural Officer may deem necessary. (Proc. No. 21, Aug. 1, 1933.)

IMPORTATION OF COCONUT PALMS PROHIBITED

The importation into the Colony, directly or indirectly, is prohibited of any part or portion of the coconut palm (Cocos nucifera), including plants, leaves, leaflets, and unhusked fruits (but not including the husked nut of commerce), except by the Department of Agriculture for the purpose of experimental work undertaken by that Department. (Proc. No. 25, Aug. 14, 1933.)

IMPORTATION OF SUGARCANE PROHIBITED
Except under License

The importation into the Colony, directly or indirectly, is prohibited of sugarcane (Saccharum officinarum L.), sugarcane seedlings, and plants, and all other parts of the sugarcane, and earth or soil, or any articles packed therewith, except under license issued by the Governor. (Proc. No. 39, Aug. 30, 1935.)

SUMMARY OF THE PLANT-QUARANTINE IMPORT RESTRICTIONS OF THE REPUBLIC OF COSTA RICA

IMPORTATION OF LIVE PLANTS SUBJECT TO PERMIT, CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN, AND INSPECTION

The importer in Costa Rica shall apply in advance to the National Agricultural Center for a permit to import live plants, or parts thereof, roots, tubers, bulbs, rhizomes, stems, etc.

On the arrival of a shipment of plants or parts thereof, the importer shall present to the said Center a certificate of origin and an original invoice.

If, upon inspection, the plants are found to be in perfect sanitary condition, a permit may be issued to authorize their entry. If they are found to be carriers of pathogenic organisms they shall be destroyed after notifying the owner, who shall have no rights of indemnity.

Customs and postal officials shall send to the National Agricultural Center at San Pedro de Montes de Oca, all plants and parts thereof for inspection, provided the weight of the shipment does not exceed 50 kilograms. The said Center will be requested to send an inspector to examine larger shipments.

The National Agricultural Center may import any class of plants for scientific or experimental purposes. (Decree of Jan. 15, 1925, and Decree of Nov. 8, 1929.)

IMPORTATION OF PLANT AND VEGETABLE SEEDS NOT RESTRICTED

The importation of plant and vegetable seeds intended for sowing or for immediate consumption, as well as the seeds of ornamental and forest plants, will not be subject to the provisions of this decree. (Decree of Nov. 8, 1929.)

IMPORTATION OF COFFEE AND SUGARCANE PLANTS PROHIBITED

The importation of live plants or vegetative parts of every species of the genus Coffea and of the genus Saccharum is prohibited. The importation also is prohibited of empty sacks or other containers which have been employed for coffee. (Decrees of Aug. 18, 1924, and Nov. 8, 1929.)

ALFALFA SEED SUBJECT TO INSPECTION

Alfalfa seeds in quantities not exceeding 50 kilograms shall be sent by the Customs or postal officials to the National Agricultural Center for inspection. If the quantity is greater than 50 kilograms the said Center shall be requested to send an inspector to examine the seeds to determine whether they are contaminated with dodder seeds (Cuscuta). (Decree of Nov. 8, 1929.)

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SUMMARY OF THE PLANT-QUARANTINE IMPORT RESTRICTIONS OF THE REPUBLIC OF GUATEMALA

INSPECTION CERTIFICATE REQUIRED WITH EACH SHIPMENT OF PLANTS

An inspection certificate issued by competent authority (State or Federal) of the place of origin is required with each shipment of plants, parts thereof, seeds, or fruits, and all packing materials, declaring them to be free from diseases of a contagious character and that they are from sources where no insects, fungi, or other parasites exist, the introduction of which might constitute a danger to the cultures of the country. The certificate is to be visaed by a Guatemalan Consul.

The above applies also to mail importations.

(Decrees of Aug. 29, 1919, Sept. 8, 1923, and July 1, 1930)

CERTIFICATION NOT REQUIRED OF FLOWER AND VEGETABLE SEEDS SHIPPED BY MAIL

According to an abstract published in the International Bulletin of Plant Protection, VI:12, December, 1932, page 206, the Decree of June 4, 1932, prescribes that the phytosanitary certificate established by the Decree of August 29, 1919, will no longer be required in the case of flower and vegetable seeds sent in small quantities by mail.

For every other consignment, including potatoes for food or seed, the consuls of Guatemala will require the presentation of phytosanitary certificates before the customary permit can be issued.

INSPECTION AND TREATMENT OF PLANTS UNACCOMPANIED BY AN INSPECTION CERTIFICATE

Any importation of seeds or plants unaccompanied by the certificate required by the Decree of August 29, 1919, will be sent by the customs or postal officials to the Direction General of Agriculture, where the interested persons may obtain them after inspection and, if necessary, disinfection, at the expense of the interested persons. (Decree of Jan. 15, 1920.)

Only flower and vegetable seeds imported by mail in packages not exceeding 10 pounds are excepted from the certification requirement. (Decree of Jan. 15, 1920.)

IMPORTATION PROHIBITED

Sugar cane shoots. (Decree of Jan. 15, 1920.)
Mulberry trees. (Decree of May 24, 1922.)
Used empty sacks, to prevent the introduction of the coffee bean weevil, Araecerus fasciculatus. (Decree of Apr. 28, 1923.)
Banana plants from the Antilles and the countries around the Gulf of Honduras. (Decree of Nov. 6, 1923.)
Coffee, Gardenia, and Cape Jasmine seeds and plants. (Decree of Sept. 8, 1923), except that coffee seeds may be imported through the Ministry of Agriculture. (Decree of Sept. 8, 1923.)

SUMMARY OF PLANT-QUARANTINE IMPORT RESTRICTIONS OF THE REPUBLIC OF HONDURAS

This Republic has no plant-quarantine import restrictions.

SUMMARY OF THE PLANT-QUARANTINE IMPORT RESTRICTIONS OF THE REPUBLIC OF NICARAGUA

IMPORTATION OF USED SACKS PROHIBITED

The importation into Nicaragua is prohibited of used sacks, whether empty or as containers of any kind of merchandise. (Decree of Sept. 25, 1925.)

This Republic has no plant-quarantine import restrictions other than that on used sacks.

SUMMARY OF THE PLANT-QUARANTINE IMPORT RESTRICTIONS OF THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA

PHYTOSANITARY CERTIFICATE REQUIRED FOR RUBBER PLANTS AND SEEDS

A phytosanitary certificate issued by competent officials of the country of origin is required with each shipment of rubber seeds (Hevea spp.), shoots, and plants. The importation is prohibited of such materials infected by the South American leaf disease (Dothidella ulei P. Henn.) or any other infection that might seriously damage the growing of rubber trees in the Republic. (Resolution No. 15, Feb. 22, 1935.)

SUMMARY OF THE PLANT-QUARANTINE IMPORT RESTRICTIONS OF THE REPUBLIC OF SALVADOR

INSPECTION CERTIFICATE MUST ACCOMPANY PLANTS AND SEEDS

Decree No. 266 of October 18-19, 1933 (Diario Oficial No. 236, Oct. 26, 1933), imposes certification requirements on plant material offered for entry into the Republic of Salvador.

Article 1. The plant material included in the following tariff numbers has been exempted from import duty and consular fees for visaing invoices and shipping papers:

321-1-30-001 Seeds, bulbs, roots, rootstocks, bulbous roots, and shoots, inedible.
321-1-30-002 Cottonseed for planting.

Art. 2. The following notes are inserted:

Note No. 321 (a). Plants and seeds that fall within this chapter and may at the same time serve as food products for consumption, are placed as such in section 2, title 1, chapter 2.

Note No. 321 (b). For the entry of plants and seeds that fall under this chapter, the customs offices of the Republic will require of the interested person a certificate of the corresponding agricultural phytosanitary office, visaed by the Consul of Salvador. The attestation of these documents is free.

If shipments of plants and seeds are not accompanied by the said certificate, the Ministry of Agriculture may order the destruction of plants and seeds which may be imported into Salvador, if in its opinion the said plants and seeds involve danger if propagated; furthermore, the Ministry is authorized to order the fumigation of the same at the expense of the interested persons at any place deemed suitable, if the corresponding certificate is not presented.

Art. 3. The preceding regulations become effective with plants and seeds loaded 30 days after the approval of the present decree, as indicated by the bill of lading.

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FUMIGATION OF USED EMPTY SACKS REQUIRED

Used empty sacks must be fumigated at the port of embarkation and the certificate of fumigation must be visaed by the Salvadorean Consul in that district. If the shipment arrives without the certificate of fumigation, the importer will be obliged to pay a surtax of 10 percent of the duty in addition to the established 10 percent for registration and examination, as well as the cost of fumigation at the port of entry. (Decree of July 10, 1930.)

INSPECTION CERTIFICATE REQUIRED WITH EACH SHIPMENT OF FRUIT FROM SAN FRANCISCO

The Salvadorean Consul at San Francisco, Calif., will require shippers of fruits to the Republic of Salvador to present with the documents applying to each shipment an inspection certificate, issued by competent authority, affirming that the fruits shipped are in the condition noted in the respective bill of lading. (Decree of Oct. 8, 1930.)

COTTONSEED MUST BE FUMIGATED

Each shipment of cottonseed offered for entry into Salvador must be accompanied by an official certificate affirming that it has been duly fumigated.

If such a shipment is not accompanied by a fumigation certificate its fumigation at the port of entry may be required, at the expense of the consignee, before being withdrawn from the dock. To facilitate fumigation, cottonseed shall be entered only through the port of La Libertad. (Decree of Jan. 23, 1924.)

IMPORTATION OF COFFEE STEMS, SHRUBS, AND SEEDS PROHIBITED

To prevent the introduction of certain diseases affecting coffee plantations in other countries, the importation of coffee stems, shrubs, or seeds into Salvador has been indefinitely prohibited. (Executive Decree of Feb. 7, 1925.)